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WAR DEPARTMENT
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SERVICE
WASHINGTONOSD Declassification/Release
Instructions on File

15 July 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHIEF, MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SERVICE:

Subject: Foreign Positive Intelligence.

1. Reference is made to the attached letter dated 8 July 1944 from the Director of Intelligence, Army Service Forces, concerning the publication, "Current Requests for Information," in connection with the collection of foreign positive intelligence by the Service Commands (Tab A).
2. For your information there is attached hereto copies of the Disposition Form dated 3 March 1944 to the Adjutant General from the A. C. of S., G-2, and the Adjutant General's letter dated 4 March 1944 to the Director of Intelligence, Army Service Forces, directing that the Service Commands participate in the collection of foreign positive intelligence and advising that guidance in this collection would be provided by current requests for information and priorities as established by the A. C. of S., G-2, WDGS (Tab B).
3. Current requests for information as mentioned in the above communications refer specifically to the publication, "Current Requests for Information," a copy of which is attached (Tab C).
4. The original plan of the Current Request list as propounded over a year and a half ago was to have the Chief of the former Theatre Group request regularly, once a month, a list of current intelligence requirements of all the former regional branches, and with the advice of the Planning and Strategy Group indicate to the former Collection Unit which countries and which questions should be emphasized or given priorities in the collection of replies from the various sources available to the former Collection Unit. The three-ring binder was adopted as a cover, and questionnaires for each country were to be forwarded in loose-leaf form once a month, or more or less frequently, as desired. Current Request lists were furnished to all Military Attaches, Military Observers, Military Liaison Officers, JICAs, MID Branch Offices, and Service Commands. The last supplement published was sometime in May, 1944.



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5. The Current Request list serves the following purposes:

- a. Keeps MID field personnel regularly informed of MID current requirements and priorities.
- b. Makes full use of all possible sources of information.
- c. Makes intelligence gathering activities, both domestic and foreign, more economical and more effective by directing the concentration of those activities on specific needs.
- d. Gives due consideration to the intelligence needs of other arms and services.
- e. Transmits the same questions to more than a single agency in the field, on the theory that a single report is seldom if ever the be-all and end-all on any one subject; and on the theory that valuable intelligence on almost any subject and area may be obtained at almost any important intelligence post, provided the proper search for the best contacts is made. (There is information in Madrid and Stockholm, for example, not merely on Spain and Sweden, but on Russia, France, Germany, etc.)
- f. Relieves the requesting branches of as much paper work as possible in connection with printing and forwarding questionnaires.
- g. Prevents as much duplication as possible in requests for information, maps and documents.
- h. Makes sure that information requested from the field could not be obtained in Washington.

6. In view of the commitment made by the A. C. of S., G-2, to furnish the Service Commands with Current Request lists, and in view of the professed need of the field offices for intelligence objectives as witnessed by the recent requests for such objectives by JICA in Rome, it is recommended that the Director of Intelligence be directed to supply the Supervisor of Source Control* regularly once a month with current questions reflecting the current intelligence requirements of MIS. The Supervisor of Source Control* will assemble and put the questions in the proper form for transmittal to the field. Also included in the Current Request list, will be certain of the regular requests for information submitted to Supervisor of Source Control in the normal routine manner by the various units in the Intelligence Group as outlined in MID memorandum No. 65, dated 10 July, subject, "Requests for Information."

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- 2 -

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7. Accordingly, it is recommended that the attached reply be made to the Director of Intelligence, Army Service Forces (Tab D).

~~For the Chief, Military Intelligence Service:~~

W. M. Adams

W. M. ADAMS,
Lt. Colonel, G.S.C.,
Supervisor of Source Control.

4 Incls.:

- Incl. 1 - Tab A
- Incl. 2 - Tab B
- Incl. 3 - Tab C
- Incl. 4 - Tab D

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